

## FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

The Mission of the California Fish and Game Commission is, on behalf of California citizens, to ensure the long term sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources by:

- Guiding the ongoing scientific evaluation and assessment of California's fish and wildlife resources;
- Setting California's fish and wildlife resource management policies and insuring these are implemented by the Department of Fish and Game;
- Establishing appropriate fish and wildlife resource management rules and regulations; and
- Building active fish and wildlife resource management partnerships with individual landowners, the public and interest groups, and federal, State and local resource management agencies.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*The mission of the Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.*

The Department is charged with the administration and enforcement of the FGC and Title 14. The Department is organized with the Director and headquarters staff in Sacramento, with seven regional managers coordinating the operations in their respective portions of the State. The Director is the appointing power of all Department employees, who are responsible to the Director for the proper performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Most of the revenue for the Department comes from the Fish and Game Preservation Fund, with a limited amount from other sources (General Fund, Sport Fish Restoration Act, Environmental License Plate Fund, and grants). The Fish and Game Preservation Fund is supported by the sale of sport fishing and hunting licenses, commercial licenses, fish landing taxes, and fines and penalties assessed for violation of Fish and Game laws.

### From the Center for Marine Conservation...

Discarded fishing line, net, bait bags, and trash that enters the marine environment needlessly kill marine wildlife. Floating plastic rope and line also foul boat propellers, and plastic bags clog seawater intakes causing engine failure and costly repairs. If a boater is stranded, the situation can become life-threatening. In 1988, an international treaty, MARPOL, Annex V, took effect. This law bans the dumping of plastic in navigable waters, such as rivers, lakes, canals, streams, bays, and the ocean.

It is also a California offense to litter from shore. Become part of the solution, keep trash out of our oceans and waterways. Secure any loose fishing line and trash to ensure it does not enter the water. Where possible, retrieve trash floating in the water or on shore and share your concern with others by encouraging them to help. Ultimately, the solution to marine debris lies with those who care about the future of the aquatic environment and its living resources.

## ROCKFISH CONSERVATION AREA

All California commercial fishermen need to be aware of the Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCA). RCA's restrict the use of certain gear types due to their potential of interacting with overfished groundfish. For more information refer to Federal regulations.

## PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The 2004 commercial season and regulations will be set early in 2004 by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). For current regulations, please contact: International Pacific Halibut Commission, P.O. Box 95009, Seattle, WA 98145-2009, (206) 634-1838, Fax (206) 632-2983 or [www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm](http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/default.htm).

A free license is required in Area 2A for all commercial vessels and for charter vessels which retain Pacific halibut. Applications are available from the IPHC, or Department offices in Eureka, Fort Bragg, or Belmont.

## FEDERAL GROUNDFISH PERMITS

As of January 1, 1994, limited entry permits for groundfish are required aboard all vessels fishing groundfish trawl, longline, and fishpot (trap) gear under the limited entry quota and regulations (limited entry gears). Longline and fishpot vessels without permits, along with all other gear except trawl, are allowed to continue fishing in open access fisheries. Trip limits and other management measures are used in the open access fisheries to keep their harvest within the historic levels of that segment of the fleet not receiving permits. For further information contact: Northwest Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, 7600 Sand Point Way NE Building #1, Seattle, WA 98115-0700, (206) 526-4353, Fax (206) 526-6736 or [www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfish/gdfsh01.htm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1sustfish/gdfsh01.htm).

## FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Federal regulations are in effect for many California fisheries including Coastal Pelagic Species (Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, northern anchovy, and market squid), groundfish and salmon. For information regarding federal fisheries regulations please contact: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213, (562) 980-4030. You can also obtain regulations and other fishery information from the following NMFS websites: Southwest region, website at: [swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits.htm](http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits.htm) (for coastal pelagic species), [www.nwr.noaa.gov/gdfsh01.htm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/gdfsh01.htm) (for groundfish) and [www.nwr.noaa.gov/salmon01.htm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/salmon01.htm) (for salmon).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO GOLDEN AND RIDGEBACK PRAWN FISHERMEN

The Department is currently involved in the development of a number of restricted access programs for California's commercial fisheries. A restricted access program for the spot prawn trap fishery went into effect for the 2002-2003 fishing season. A separate program is being considered for the ridgeback and golden prawn fishery. Sections 120.4 and 180.3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) established a control date of January 1, 1999 for the spot prawn, ridgeback, and golden prawn fisheries. It is likely that guidelines more restrictive than a single landing prior to January 1, 1999 also will be adopted as qualifying criteria for the ridgeback and golden prawn fishery. If you have not landed ridgeback prawn in California prior to January 1, 1999, you will not be eligible for entry into a ridgeback prawn restricted access program that could be implemented.